



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

9 May 2001

Dear germplasm user,

We are contacting you as part of a joint project between the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) to document and analyze patterns of use in the *Amaranthus*, *Brassica*, *Cucumis*, and *Helianthus* germplasm collections held by the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station at Ames, Iowa.

This is one of several similar enquiries that IPGRI is carrying out in collaborations with national, regional and international genebanks worldwide. The rationale for this work is that, although genetic resources are conserved in order to be used, the extent and nature of how most *ex situ* germplasm collections are utilized is poorly understood. Evidence of effective and extensive germplasm use is needed in order to provide justification to decision-makers for maintaining and increasing support of conservation activities, which often face funding pressures.

We would ask you to take a few minutes to complete the attached questionnaire regarding germplasm samples that you have received in past years from the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station and return it to Dr. Mark Widrlechner by 9 June 2001. As an alternative to mail, you may fax your response to 515-294-1903. We will analyze the returned surveys and summarize responses in aggregate, grouped only by major categories, such as the four crop genera, type of institution, discipline, foreign vs. domestic user. The results of our analyses of the collective responses to this questionnaire will be prepared for publication and used to improve customer service. Individual responses will be kept confidential and will be destroyed after analysis. If you wish to receive a copy of the results, please let Dr. Widrlechner know.



Midwest Area • Plant Introduction Research Unit  
North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station • Iowa State University • Ames, IA 50011-1170  
Voice: 515-294-3511 • Germplasm Requests Fax: 515-294-1903

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